

My name is Jesse Leung and it would be an understatement to say post-secondary education has changed my life forever and is continuing to change my future career, confidence and wisdom. Both my parents had very limited experience with post-secondary education and knew very little about it, therefore, I was essentially on my own. Due to excessive video game playing in high school, I achieved very critically low marks, including exactly fifty percent in Math 12. I didn't know what I wanted to be, what job I wanted to get and how I was supposed to achieve those goals. So I started working at Wal-Mart as a cart pusher and applied to programs such as Tech One or CAD drafting but I was put on waiting lists. One of the reasons I changed my perspective on schooling was because my dad had an accident at home and fell off a ladder hitting his head. My dad's accident forced me to take responsibility for taking care of my mom and the household. So I decided I would give post-secondary education a serious try although there was a steep learning curve to make up for all those years of not trying at school. The first few years of university were particularly challenging, as I didn't know how to study, I had limited experience writing essays, and I was still playing some videogames which took away from my time doing schoolwork. But by my second year, I officially dropped videogames to focus on school, I learned how to study effectively, how to take notes efficiently and I was getting better at essay writing. The staff at Kwantlen really encouraged and supported me through my learning days and were essential to my success at school. I even won the First Year Award of Merit for the highest GPA in the whole department of geography as well as the Hasan Akbar Advocate Memorial Award and two Continuance Awards of Merit. I also found out that the only thing preventing me from achieving success at school was the lack of time spent on studying or working on homework. Amazingly I managed to achieve an A+ in Pre-calculus where only 3 years ago I had almost failed Math 12. Post-secondary education taught me to work hard and to develop a good work ethic, taking school seriously as something that can dramatically change my future opportunities. I also learned to be confident in myself, knowing that I can achieve success if I put my mind to it and try my best. I also learned to enjoy schoolwork and to respect my teachers as not only mentors but as friends whose support I greatly appreciated. Furthermore, I learned what it means by teamwork, and through group projects, I found out how to depend on others and to have others depend on me. All in all, I owe a lot to Kwantlen, its faculty and students, and I am most grateful for the opportunity I had to study there.